CHALLENGING PATRIARCHY: A STUDY OF THE SELECT WORKS BY ANGELA SAINI

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Patil Priyanka Ramchandra

Under the Guidance of

Dr. Prashant Raosaheb Shinde
Head & Associate Professor
Department of English
Shivneri Mahavidyalaya, Shirur Anantpal
Tal. Shirur. Dist. Latur

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Revisiting the Concept of Feminism in the Works of Angela Saini

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Introduction:

This research aims at drawing a trajectory of how Angela Saini has used and implied the term ‘Feminism’ with the help of her literature and work. It attempts to juxtapose the themes and techniques in Indian feminism, which have been pertinently delineated in recent fiction and non-fiction. The objective of this study is to discuss how Angela Saini, a well-known feminist writer and thinker has reframed the frames which were created around ‘feminism’ on theoretical levels. In her feministic vision Saini challenges deep-seated beliefs about feminism and unpacks its many layers. She says or writes her life experience of growing up as an Indian woman and describes how science and scientists have declared women are inferior than men in her writings and focused on humiliation, injustice, discrimination, miseries on backdrop of and most humiliated life on earth without any reason.

At the starting of the research, it is necessary to explain the basic concept of the research. ‘Feminism’ is the key concept of the present study. Feminism the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests. Throughout most of Western history, women were confined to the domestic sphere, while public life was reserved for men. In medieval Europe, women were denied the right to own property, to study, or to participate in public life. At the end of the 19th century in France, they were still compelled to cover their heads in public, and, in parts of Germany, a husband still had the right to sell his wife. Even as late as the early 20th century, women could neither vote nor hold elective office in Europe and in most of the United States (where several territories and states granted women

suffrage long before the federal government did so). Women were prevented from conducting business without a male representative, be it father, brother, husband, legal agent, or even son. Married women could not exercise control over their own children without the permission of their husbands. Moreover, women had little or no access to education and were barred from most professions. In some parts of the world, such restrictions on women continue today.

The study highlights a specific view about feminism in the selected novels of Angela Saini. The literary meaning of feminism is the belief and objective that women should have the same opportunities and rights as men and struggle to achieve this objective. The feminism stands for the strong awareness of women identity and interest in female problems. In the context, English writers have explored the various types of feminism in English literature such as existential, liberal, radical, psycho analytical, cultural, individual, relative, postmodern and socialist-Marxist feminism etc. Thus, feminism wants equal rights and opportunities for women as a social movement.

The present form of feminism developed after 1960s and becomes a social movement. On the basis of studies made by research scholars and feminists the history of movement can be categorized into three waves. First wave feminism uses for the period of feminist activity during the 19th and early 20th century in America, Canada, Netherlands and the U. K. The second wave feminism refers to the thoughts and effects related with the movement of female liberation in the 1960s. The third wave feminism refers to the reactions against the negativity and failure of second wave feminism and it started in the 1990s. In the early 21st century, the feminist movement focuses on woman who is powerful human resource and a major contributor in the society. Now women have power to decide the values and ways of their personal lives having lot of self-confidence.

Angela Saini's first book, *Geek Nation*: *How Indian Science is Taking Over the World*, was published in 2011. In 2012, she won the Association of British Science Writers Award for best news item. She was a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology between 2012 and 2013. In 2015 she won the American Association for the Advancement of Science Gold Award. Her second book, *Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story*, was published in 2017. The magazine of the Institute of Physics, Physics World, named Inferior as book of the year 2017. Saini told Physics World that her aim was to tackle the contradictory information on gender studies put forward in the media and in scholarly journals is one of the well-known feminist writers and science novelists whose writings focus on major issues of the women. She is an Indian-born British writer. She was born in 1980 in London. and her aim of life is writing on feministic view in his works

She lived through various phases of life; therefore, impact of her life experiences reflects on the protagonists in her work and presented an image of different experiences throughout the life. She contributed to English science Literature through her high quality of works a lot and provided a new dimension to English science literature. She wrote three novels. Her novels are *Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World (*2011), *Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story*(2017) and *Superior: The Return of Race Science*(2019). The proposed research work is aimed at understanding the feminist perspectives in the selected novels of Angela Saini. The research work requires a deep study of feminism phenomenon in the novels of Angela Saini.

Angela Saini's novel focuses and spokes on the concept of gender, race, power in science patriarchy, injustice, bias, sexism. Indian women and their struggle. Her

writings also use the women issues to present the spatial and temporal dimensions among different cultures. She continuous writes about the experiences of discriminate in her novels. Angela Saini's analyses the various science issues through feministic approach in her works and in her novel.

Review of Literature:

Review of literature is very crucial part of the research. Hence, the researcher has tried to review the previous literature in the field. There are some research papers and articles are available on the topic but it is a need of a comprehensive research.

Amrita Dutta (2019), In her article *What might milk have to do with white supremacist indignation?* explained that, in 2017, a group of white nationalists in America descended on an anti-Donald Trump art installation in a museum in New York, carrying cartons of milk. They then proceeded to glug them down in an aggressive display of, well, lactose tolerance. Absurd as it was, the men believed their act was backed by science. Genetic research has shown that while the ability to digest milk is usually deactivated after childhood being distorted to serve a racist agenda in the West. Or, as Angela Saini, writes in her new book, in many populations, it developed in the earliest cattle-herders in Europe around 5,000-7,500 years ago. Ergo, for the white nationalists, it was a "white" genetic trait, and proof of the racial difference between white and black people. They were wrong, of course — similar traits had also evolved in cattle-rearing populations in East Africa, and Asia around the time. But this is just one example of science Superior: The Return of Race Science (2019) "science is just a pawn in the bloody game.

An Indian-origin British journalist, Saini's project, one could argue, has been to dismantle the belief that science is objective and untouched by social differences. Her work uncovers how power structures influence the questions science asks and

the answers it supplies. In her last book, Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong (2017), Saini charted the history of discrimination in the scientific establishment, revealing how the sexist premises of scientists such as Charles Darwin (that women were only fit for nurturing roles, and intellectually inferior to men) perpetuated patriarchy. “It was really as a journalist, seeing how scientists work close up, examining why they choose the questions they do, their personal motives, funding, agendas, politics, that I became fascinated by how bias operates in science as well as in everyday life,” says Saini in an email interview.

Tishani Doshi (2018), in her article explains that, Angela Saini grew up in an egalitarian Indian-Punjabi household in London — a lonely female geek, who showed an early propensity for building things. Her latest book, Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong — and the New Research That’s Rewriting the Story, attempts to redress the gender imbalances and stereotypes that have been propagated by science for hundreds of years. By revisiting experiments and interviewing leading scientists, Saini picks apart the old myths and ultimately suggests a break from the binary categories we have now. “In the history of science,” she writes, “we have to hunt for women.” Despite centuries of entrenched exclusion and prejudice, the story of women in science, she insists, is a story of persistence.

Saini begins with the big daddy of evolutionary theory, Darwin, who believed women were intellectually inferior to men; reminds us of a time when doctors argued that the mental strains of higher education might divert energy away from a woman’s reproductive system; takes a stab at cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker, who tried to use evolutionary psychology in his article ‘Boys Will be Boys,’ to defend Bill Clinton’s affair with Monica Lewinsky; and brings us up to speed about what the function of menopause might be. Along the way she offers tantalising facts — how all foetuses start out as physically female, how horse testes are one of the richest sources of oestrogen, how we share 99% of our genomes with chimpanzees and

baboons. All of which lead to larger debates about identity and beg the question: what does it mean to be born male or female? Excerpts.

Madanmohan Rao (2013), This highly readable book is a combination of science journalism and travelogue, addressing one of the most interesting questions of the 21st century: how will one of the world's oldest civilizations balance its deep traditions with modern science, and emerge with game-changing innovations? "India was one of the most powerful scientific nations of all," says the author, and it may even be "the birthplace of the geek." India is a nation of "geeks, swots, nerds, dweebs, boffins and dorks," the book begins. Almost one in five of all medical and dental staff in the UK is of Indian origin, and one in six employed scientists with science or engineering doctorates in the US is Asian. By the turn of the millennium, there were even claims that a third of all engineers in Silicon Valley were of Indian origin, with Indians running 750 of its tech companies, according to the author. Angela Saini is a science journalist who has written for the BBC, the Economist, New Scientist, Science, and Wired, and has been an invited speaker at Columbia University, Google, and Newswomen's Club of New York. She was named European Young Science Writer of the Year in 2009, and her Web site provides links to her blogs. Her father was an engineer from India and she grew up in the UK, thus giving her unique perspectives blending east and west.

Gaps in Existing Research:

The proposed problem or area, "Challenging Patriarchal Science : A Critical Study With The Reference of Angela Saini's Work" is very important. There are various research papers and articles available on the topic but there is a need to do a comprehensive study. Hence, it is very crucial to study new concept of feminism by Angela Saini and bring it in focus. From intelligence to emotion, centuries science has told us than men and women are physically different but this is not whole story,

we are found out science related biology, psychology and anthropology to eye-opening journey to rediscovered of women's dimension.

Statement of Proposed Problem:

The subject of the research is "Challenging Patriarchal Science : A Critical Study With The Reference of Angela Saini's Work" and for the study of the proposed problem. The researcher will have to study various phases of feminism. Then the researcher will have to study and find out the different concept of feminism by Angela Saini. Hence, it may say that, the purpose of the research is to revised concept of feminism in Indian context.

Scope and Limitation of Research:

The title of the research "Challenging Patriarchal Science : A Critical Study With The Reference of Angela Saini's Work" covers and indicates the scope, area, dept and limitations of the research. The researcher will study and find out the revised concept of feminism in her work, hence the research covers and throws light on the concept of feminism in modern era. In modern era, means after the modernization of India, Saini used various subjects, themes and theories in her works hence, the researcher has to study and understand the revised concept of feminism in modern context. She used different feministic theories to develop her argument, hence the study of theories, subjects and techniques of Angela Saini is the crucial part of the subject. The researcher will study some primary sources by Angela Saini in that, *Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World* (2011), *Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story(2017)*, and *Superior: The Return of Race Science(2019)*.

Relevance of the Research Work:

The author of the texts has used new analytical and comparative theories in her work. Hence, it is noticed that the concept of feminism is changed drastically. The Indian feminism is same and traditional for ages, but Saini brings newness in the feminism theories. She gave new face to the feminism. Due to these reasons, it is necessary to study, analyse and find out the new and innovative techniques of Angela Saini. In the present circumstance of the modernization and post modernization researcher should be aware about the newness of theories and Saini has used it in her books. Hence, it is very crucial to study and throw light on the themes and techniques of Angela Saini.

Significant of Proposed Problem:

Angela Saini has expressed new ideas and theories in her books. She has proved how science and scientists had declared women are inferior than men, that was a conspiracy of males. So, we have need of feminist and scientific values in human life for the develop the scientific human society with great values. That's why we have need Scientific book must be analyse through in our modern perspectives and to study the aspects involving the constant demand for the feminist stories in our generation with qualitative approach. We can solve various Gender problems through feminism. Hence, the problem of the research or subject is very significant to further researcher and scholars too.

Objectives of the Research:

1. To study Angela Saini's works through feministic approach.
2. To study the revised concept of feminism by Angela Saini.
3. To study various phases of feminism.
4. To study the self-identity and roots of feminism.
5. To provide source for interpreting works with more meanings and dimensions.

6. To explore modernity in the books of Saini and its relativity in the modern era.

Hypothesis:

1. Patriarchal science and scientists have declared women as inferior.
2. Males have used science as a tool of women's exploitation.
3. Patriarchal mindset of scientists is responsible to develop Sens of commune.
4. Angela Saini has challenged science and patriarchal science theories in her writing
5. Angela Saini has given a new vision to feminism.

Research Methodology:

The researcher will use various theories for the research and various feministic theories will be used as the base. For the present study, emphasis is laid on a very close reading and study of primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include three books of Angela Saini *Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World, Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story*. and *Superior: The Return of Race Science* and other original texts and the works of other authors, speeches, various magazines, newspaper articles are used for the research as secondary data sources. Data is collected from the various sources. The data regarding the research is taken from various sites, journals, magazines, newspapers, books and articles. Various analytical, interpretative, modern and post-modern theories, comparative theories and cultural theories are used for the present study.

An introduction of Angela Saini and her selected texts is followed by the brief consideration of the objectives, and the scope of the study is the initial part of the study. Some consideration of the themes, techniques subjects is necessary for the present study. The present research focuses on how Angela Saini contributed and

constructed the themes and theories regarding the Indian feminism. It is followed by the analysis and interpretation of the selected books of theory in the context of feminism. Against such background certain conclusion are drawn. Thus, in a sense, the present study is an attempt to understand the reception of the themes and theories in the works. The present attempt is thus, a feministic study on one hand and theoretical study on the other.

Chapter Scheme:

Chapter 1

Introduction

The first chapter of the research will be introductory. The chapter will cover introduction, review of literature, objectives, hypothesis, research methodology, chapter scheme etc. points. Introduction of the author is the initial part of the research. Then the chapter will focus basic themes and techniques in the research. In sum, the first introductory chapter will provide research frame for further research.

Chapter 2

Theorizing Feminism

The second chapter of the research will focus on the concept feminism. Feminism is very important concept in modern era. The researcher will describe various phases of feminism then explains revised concept of Angela Saini. This chapter describes authors contribution and her literary works in feminism.

Chapter 3

Feminism in *Geek Nation*

The third chapter of the research is very important. In this chapter researcher will study feminism the book. The book raises a number of interesting questions in

this regard. The chapter explains that, how do Indian scientists blend science in professional life and tradition in personal life? What effect did colonial rule have on Indian attitudes towards science, heritage and power?

Chapter 4

Feminism in *Inferior*

The fourth chapter of the research is very crucial. The researcher will study important book Inferior in this book. The author of the book, Angela Sain has proved how science and scientists have declared women is inferior than men. This book is milestone in the feminism; hence it should study thoroughly.

Chapter Five

Feminism in *Superior*

The fifth chapter is also very important in the research. In this chapter researcher will focus on feminism and hierarchal gender system. The book *Superior* includes a chapter on caste in India, a social system in which population groups are kept separate by forced endogamy. Siani recounts meetings with Indian scientists who believe that millennia of genetic separation have turned caste into a "biological reality." Hence this chapter is very important.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The sixth and final chapter of the research will be the soul of research. On the basis of above five chapters, its output, arguments, points and issues certain conclusion will be drawn. The chapter will provide all the arguments about the research.

Expected Outcomes:

The research will be the useful for further researcher. The research will bring together all the feministic phases and theories, hence, the topic will be useful for scholars too. This research will be useful to study Angela Saini's all works together. Further researcher can study revised concept of feminism in the research. This research will foreground for further feministic studies researchers. Feminism should be taught in all schools and colleges.

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Researcher **Research Guide**